



## Charter Amendment No. 3

This is the third of nine proposed [College Station City Charter](#) amendments on the Nov. 6 ballot.

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## What you will see on the ballot:

### PROPOSITION NO. 3

FOR/AGAINST

Shall Article X (Initiative, Referendum, Recall), Section 83 (Power of Initiative) and Section 84 (Power of Referendum) be amended to clarify exceptions to the power of initiative and exceptions to the power of referendum, to extend the number of days in which an ordinance is subject to referendum from twenty (20) days to thirty (30) days, to extend the number of days allowed the City Secretary to examine the petitions from ten (10) days to fifteen (15) days, and to provide that the number of days specified to examine the petitions are business days?

## What does it mean?

If you vote **AGAINST** this proposition, you are voting to keep this section of the charter as it is; if you vote **FOR** this proposition, you are voting to make these changes:

### ARTICLE X INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

#### Power of Initiative *Section 83*

➤ ***The existing charter says:***

The electors shall have power to propose any ordinance, except an ordinance zoning or rezoning property, appropriating money, authorizing the issuance of bonds, or authorizing the levy of taxes, and to adopt or reject the same at the polls, such power being known as the initiative. Any initiative ordinance may be submitted to the City Council by a petition signed by qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least twenty-five (25) percent of the number of votes cast at the last regular municipal election.

➤ ***The amended charter would say:***

**The electors shall have power to propose any ordinance, except land use ordinances including but not limited to zoning or rezoning property;** or ordinances appropriating money, authorizing the issuance of bonds, or authorizing the levy of taxes, and to adopt or reject the same at the polls, such power being known as the initiative. Any initiative ordinance may be submitted to the City Council by a petition signed by qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least twenty-five (25) percent of the number of votes cast at the last regular municipal election.

## **Power of Referendum**

### ***Section 84***

➤ ***The existing charter says:***

The electors shall have power to approve or reject at the polls any ordinance passed by the City Council, or submitted by the City Council to a vote of the electors, such power being known as the referendum, except in the case of ordinances zoning or rezoning property, authorizing the issuance of bonds, or making the annual tax levy. Ordinances submitted to the City Council by initiative petition and passed by the City Council without charge shall be subject to the referendum in the same manner as other ordinances. Within twenty (20) days after the enactment by the City Council of any ordinance which is subject to a referendum, a petition signed by qualified electors of the city equal in number to at least twenty-five (25) percent of the number of votes cast at the last preceding regular municipal election may be filed with the City Secretary requesting that any such ordinance be either repealed or submitted to a vote of the electors.

➤ ***The amended charter would say:***

**The electors shall have power to approve or reject at the polls any ordinance passed by the City Council, or submitted by the City Council to a vote of the electors, such power being known as the referendum, except in the case of land use ordinances including but not limited to zoning or rezoning property;** or ordinances appropriating money, authorizing the issuance of bonds, or making the annual tax levy. Ordinances submitted to the City Council by initiative petition and passed by the City Council without charge shall be subject to the referendum in the same manner as other ordinances. **Within thirty (30) days** after the enactment by the City Council of any ordinance which is subject to a referendum, a petition signed by qualified electors of the city equal in number to at least twenty-five (25) percent of the number of votes cast at the last preceding regular municipal election may be filed with the City Secretary requesting that any such ordinance be either repealed or submitted to a vote of the electors.

## **Amendment of Petitions**

### ***Section 87***

➤ ***The existing charter says:***

An initiative or referendum petition may be amended at any time within ten (10) days after the notification of insufficiency has been sent by the City Secretary, by filing a supplementary petition upon additional papers signed and filed as provided in case of an original petition. The City Secretary shall, within five (5) days after such an amendment is filed, make examination of the amended petition and, if the petition be still insufficient, he shall file his certificate to that effect in his office and notify the committee of petitioners of his findings, and no further action shall be had on such insufficient petition. The finding of the insufficiency of a petition shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

➤ ***The amended charter would say:***

**An initiative or referendum petition may be amended at any time within fifteen (15) business days** after the notification of insufficiency has been sent by the City Secretary, by filing a supplementary petition upon additional papers signed and filed as provided in case of an original petition. The City Secretary shall, within five (5) days after such an amendment is filed, make examination of the amended petition and, if the petition be still insufficient, he shall file his certificate to that effect in his office and notify the committee of petitioners of his findings, and no further action shall be had on such insufficient petition. The finding of the insufficiency of a petition shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

## Why is this charter amendment on the ballot?

After reviewing the city charter for more than a year, the 10-member Citizens Charter Review Advisory Commission in May recommended that eight charter amendments be placed on the ballot in a November special election. The commission's stated mission was to "review the city charter and make charter amendment recommendations, where appropriate, that will help protect the rights, powers and benefits of all College Station residents." Most of the recommendations were made to bring the charter in line with state law. The city council later added a ninth amendment about conflict of interest for council members.

[Citizens Charter Review Advisory Commission \(CRAC\)](#)

[Minutes of CRAC meetings](#)

[CRAC Final Report](#)